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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 7 and 24 are cancelled; claims 25 and 26 are added. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-23, and 25 are pending, of which claims 1, 25, and 26 are independent.

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7 which, as noted, is cancelled. Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 11, 14-16, 19, and 22 are amended for clarity, to assure open-ended coverage where applicable, and to ensure infringement of the apparatus claims when the goods are sold prior to being used.

Applicants do not understand why the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the present application is allegedly deficient, particularly since an initialed copy of the allegedly missing Form PTO-1449 (copy enclosed) was returned with the Office Action.

The title is amended to read, "DIGITAL CAMERA WITH USER INTERFACE FOR LINKING IMAGE FILES WITH SOUND PASSAGES." The new title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is in order.

Claim 24 is cancelled and rewritten as independent claim 25. Claim 25 complies with all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101 because it is directed to an article of manufacture (i.e., a memory for a digital

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camera). Accordingly, the rejection of claim 24 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter is obviated.

Applicants traverse the rejection of former claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Pavley et al. (WO 98/36552), as well as the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claims 8, 9, and 11 as being unpatentable over Pavley in view of Ejima et al. (U.S. 6,327,423); of claim 19 as being unpatentable over Pavley in view of Ejima et al. (U.S. 2002-0057294); and of claim 21 as being unpatentable over Pavley in view of Keirsbilck (U.S. 5,920,350).

As now presented, independent claims 1 and 25 are respectively directed to a digital camera and memory for a digital camera. The claims define a combination of elements in which a still image file can be associated with a particular point of time or period of time in the sound passage of a sound passage file. Claim 26 requires associating a still image file with a particular point of time or period of time in the sound passage of a sound passage file.

Pavley does not disclose the requirement formerly recited in claim 7 and now incorporated in claim 1 for a digital camera having the claimed combination of features including a still image file that can be associated with a particular point of time or period of time in the sound passage of a sound passage file. Because FIGS. 13-17 of Pavley, the reference relied on in rejecting claim 7, relate to editing of a passage of video to remove a subpassage and place it in a longer composite sequence, the relied-on portion of Pavley has no disclosure

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of associating a still image file with a particular point or period of time.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 25, and 26 are not anticipated by Pavley. The remaining dependent claims are allowable with claim 1. The secondary references do not cure the deficiencies in the rejection of former claim 7 (now included in claim 1) or cause claims 25 or 26 to be unpatentable. For example, Ejima merely describes a conventional digital video camera with single-shot capability.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance are deemed in order, and such action is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary during prosecution, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any prescribed fees not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension of time, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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